

Pseudo-Basil?

HS fecit 6/22/92

Admonitio ad Filium Spiritualem (ANON Admon./PS. BASIL). CPL 1155a.

MSS-Lists	none.
A-S vers	Oxford, Bodleian Library Hatton 76 (4125): HG 633.
Quots/Cits	1. Cambridge, Pembroke College 25 (Latin) from cap. 2.
	2. HomM 13 (Peterson VerchHom 21) from cap. 2.
	3. HomS 17 (BlHom 5) from cap. 8.

The Admonitio ad Filium Spiritualem, a tract of twenty brief chapters with a proemium (PL 103, 683-700), on spiritual and Christian virtue and on avoidance of named vices, was written before the seventh century (CPL 1155a). It was abstracted for sententiae by DEFENSOR Lib. Scint., and PAULINUS OF AQUILEIA Lib. exhort., within caps. 20-45 (PL 99, 212-48), drew variously on phrases from the Admon.

The Old English version in Hatton 76, 55r-67v, composed by ÆLFRIC (edited by Norman, GR5220, and Mueller, 1974) is a free rendering, echoing ideas and some phrases, but adding details. It is, however, fragmentary in the manuscript, using the proemium, caps. 1-4, part of 5, 7, 8 and probably most of 9. The loss of a manuscript leaf causes the absence of part of 5, and of 6, De Patientia. ÆLFRIC added his own prologue, attributing the work to BASIL and indicating that it contained precepts for monks and nuns.

The quotation in Pembroke College 25 (Quots/Cits 1) adapts Admon. (as printed in PL 103) cap. 2, De virtute animae and represents the direct source for Vercelli Homily 21 (Cross, 1987 a, 145-47). McCord, 1981, 360-61, demonstrates that Admon. cap. 8, De saeculi amore fugiendo, contains an 'ubi sunt' passage which is elaborated in a similar passage in Blickling Homily 5 (Quots/Cits 3).

Additional Bibliography:

Mueller, L.E. Ælfric's Translation of St. Basil's Admonitio ad Filium Spiritualem: an edition. (Diss. Washington, 1974).

McCord, L.R. "A probable source for the Ubi sunt passage in Blickling Homily V," NM 82 (1981), 360-61.

J.E. Cross